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Volume 11, Number 43

Serving The Greater Metropolitan Newark Area Since 1983

August 2 - August 8, 1995

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Abu-Jamal

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Earth, Wind & comes to New Jersey

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Survey reveals out

look on

African-American way of life

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Ron Brown defends Commerce Department

WASHINGTON, DC—U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ronald H. Brown, in defending the work done by the Commerce Department in promoting economic growth and job creation, announced President Clinton's intention to veto any legislation that would dismantle the Commerce Department. "The President believes the important work done by the department, and he has authorized me to tell you, in simple and direct terms, he will veto any legislation that dismantles the Department of Commerce."

Secretary Brown made his remarks before a joint subcommittee hearing of the House Commerce Committee (Subcommittees on Commerce, Trade, and Hazardous Materials and Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance). In his testimony, Secretary Brown challenged the merits of H.R. 1756 (The Department of Commerce Dismantling Act of 1995).

"H.R. 1756 is nothing more than box-shuffling and provides no real savings. It dismantles and scatters the government's trade programs, ends a half-century of bipartisan support for technology, while at the same time ignores vitally important programs that need to be funded, such as the 2000 Census," said Brown.

During his testimony, Secretary Brown made reference to hundreds of letters the Department has received from chief executives of U.S. companies and trade associations, in support of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

"The Commerce Department works to level the playing field and to provide the tools that American companies, workers, and communities need to remain competitive in the global economy," said Brown. "We provide business with the voice it needs in the highest councils of government."

Rutgers seven plead guilty to disorderly persons conduct

PISCATAWAY—Seven Rutgers University students involved in the April 11th protest against university president, Francis Lawrence's remarks regarding genetics and education, plead guilty to disorderly persons conduct and obstruction of traffic in Piscataway Municipal Court on Thursday July 27.

According to Captain John Casella, there were approximately 200 students blocking the intersection of Melar Lane and River Road who failed to disperse, so he called back up from four neighboring areas including New Brunswick and Edison. Casella, the senior officer there recalled seeing up to 75 officers on the scene.

See SEVEN PLEAD GUILTY/page 6



CITY NEWS

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A CITY IN TURMOIL

by Beatrice Black
with Sandra Wright

JERSEY CITY—In an ongoing struggle with Mayor Bret Schundler, his administration and Jersey City Police Director Michael Mosley, African-American community leaders met at St. Michael's Methodist Church, fondly nicknamed by residents "The Black City Hall."

The Ward F community, with a high concentration of African Amer-

icans, has mounted a direct action campaign against City Hall in response to the reassignment, without any explanation, of one of the highest ranking African-American police officers and two Caucasian officers who have gained honorable reputations in the African-American community. The officers, Deputy Chief Arthur Pease, an African American, Joseph Cassidy and Anthony Wells, combined, have over 80 years of law enforcement experience.

In a reaction to what is felt as a lack of respect towards blacks by the mayor, his administration and the police director, the community is holding daily rallies and protests outside city hall and the mayor's residence on Varick Street, both of which are located in the downtown section of Jersey City—far removed from the blighted Ward F neighborhoods.

Organizers have kept the pressure up since the Thursday, July 6, city council meeting in which vari-

ous leaders, including Elnora Watson, president and CEO of the Urban League of Hudson County, voiced their intentions to do everything in their power to engage the mayor and Morality to have the officers reinstated.

Minority representation on the police force has been a brewing issue in the community before Mayor Schundler took office. The mayor met with several key spokespersons on Thursday, July 6, and flatly re-

fused to reinstate the deputy chiefs. However, the city council went on to pass a resolution supporting the reinstatement of all three officers to their original posts. This issue has galvanized the community across the board and organized the support of various police organizations including the Police Officers Benevolent Association.

Tuesday night's, July 25, meeting was opened by Ward F Council-

See CITY IN TURMOIL/page 10

Athletes bring economic development to Plainfield

by Sherry Burrus



Pictured on the corners of North and Watchung Aves. in Plainfield, basketball player and entrepreneur, Jason Williams (second from right) is accompanied by Mayor Mark Fury, (r) his father (third from right), Denise Nickel, economic dev. coordinator for Plainfield (c) Damian Johnson, former football player and Williams' partner and Plainfield's tax collector, Brian Payne, (l).

PLAINFIELD—Jason Williams, of the New Jersey Nets, and Damian Johnson, formerly of the New York Giants recently joined the family network of business investors on North Avenue who are working to bring economic stability back to the one-time prosperous Queen City. Jayson and Johnson Construction Company purchased nearly the entire block on North Avenue, parallel to the Plainfield train station. The investment will, hopefully, help revive the one-time historical commercial strip located in the heart of Plainfield.

"It took us two months just to clean the buildings out. But now that we have them cleaned out I'm going to try and bring these stores back," says Williams, who is a Union certified brick mason.

According to Williams, there will

be strict scrutiny when deciding who the properties will be rented or leased to. He says he will leave some of the decision making up to the city, who he sits as being very helpful since they acquired the properties three months ago.

"We are definitely going to screen the people we want to put in here. We left part of that up to the mayor and the Economic Board to see what they want to do and what kind of people they want in here... I don't want to put anything in here that will hurt the community," stated Williams.

"(We need) people who want to take back their community. I just can't go and put up something nice for people not to have any pride in and not take care of it," he added.

Plainfield Mayor Mark A. Fury says both the office of Economic Development and the Plainfield Redevelopment Agency expect to

helpful to ensure that Williams' and Johnson's investment pays off and is a success.

"We can help Mr. Williams make that one of the primary retail locations in Plainfield. It's a huge confirmation to future business owners that Plainfield is a good place for real estate investments."

As for the usage of the buildings the mayor suggested to add music, deli and antique shops but says he will leave the ultimate decision up to the landlord.

"The city will be paying special attention to security in the area, keeping the streets clean and keeping parking under control."

Property owners on the adjacent side of North Avenue relayed their feelings on the purchasing of the properties. William Hetfield who owns a

See ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/page 8

Plainfield schools fail Level I monitoring

by Sherry Burrus

PLAINFIELD—Since the late 80's, Plainfield High School has struggled to regain certification. Its first deficit came in 1988 when it lost certification because of high drop-out rates and low test scores, not to mention the struggle its only high school has endured for over five years to keep a permanent principal on the payroll.

Once again, the district was served with yet another blow on Tuesday, July 25, when Superintendent Larry

Leverett was informed at a meeting with County Superintendent Leonard Fitts that the district had failed Level I monitoring by the state. In a board meeting held later that evening, Leverett announced the state findings and reassured the board that the district was "nowhere near" a state-take over.

"What is needed now is a collaborative effort. The district will provide the leadership, but it needs help in those areas where the community can play a part in improving deficiencies the state found last January when they moni-

tored the district," Leverett said.

Wednesday, July 26, Leon Edr Jr., a former superintendent and principal from Oklahoma City, assumed his post

as principal of Plainfield High School. He was appointed, Tuesday, July 25, by the Board of Education as one of two of the superintendent's appointees. The

other appointee, Linnea Wetland, director of urban education and policy in the state Department of Education's

See SCHOOLS FAIL/page 8

Task force to address school's failure to gain recertification

PLAINFIELD—Dr. Larry Leverett, Plainfield's superintendent of schools, said he is establishing a community task force in response to the school district's failure to achieve recertification by the State Department of Education.

"What is needed, now, is a collaborative effort. The district will provide the leadership, but it needs help in those areas where the community can play a part in improving the deficiencies the state found last January when they monitored the district," said Leverett. "Of the 43 items monitored by the state, the school district passed 27 of them, but failed to meet state standards on 16 other items," he said.

The superintendent received a

review of the monitoring results from Dr. Leonard Fitts, county superintendent of schools. A letter of the results will be forthcoming from Fitts' office. The letter is expected to place the school district in Level II monitoring. In 1988, the district lost certification because of facilities and low student test scores.

The school district must now show the state that it is correcting the deficiencies and preparing itself to move up to the higher Level I status. Fitts told Leverett that the monitoring report should not be viewed as punitive, but accepted as a challenge to seize the moment and take the district into full certification.

See TASK FORCE/page 10



Economic development in Africa

KENYA—The Honorable David M. Dinkins, Honorary Chairman of the U.S. Africa Chamber of Commerce, was the keynote speaker at the gala recognizing Revlon for outstanding service during Kenya's International Trade Exhibit. Dinkins is accompanied at the Revlon booth by Antonio Mugnos, executive vice president, International Operations, Revlon Professional Worldwide; Abbie Hardy (second from right), one of Revlon's leading make-up artists; and his team of African beauty consultants in front of Revlon's winning booth at the exhibit where Revlon was awarded "Best Foreign Booth." Later that day, Revlon was also bestowed with the "Outstanding Service" award by the African Travel Association (ATA) for its exceptional contribution to Africa's economic development.

Hugh Price responds to affirmative action debate

we want to make sure that the opportunities in education, employment and business are open to all," he said.

Price proposed five commandments for an inclusive America which were:

The goal is genuine inclusion: The League does not condone quotas, but neither does it accept tokenism or total exclusion of any segments of American society from the opportunity structure.

Only the qualified should be included: Candidates who are not qualified should not be in the applicant pool. For those with potential who

lack the requisite skills, there should be intensive remedial programs to help them get quickly up to speed so that they too can qualify.

Selection should be based on a broad understanding of what "qualified" and "merit" mean in the real world: Those who do the picking should be free to weigh traditional indicators, such as test scores and grades, along with such intangible attributes like grit and determination.

Inclusion is morally virtuous, economically advantageous and demographically inevitable: The American population is diverse by

definition—50 percent female, and increasingly becoming more multi-ethnic. Americans must accept this reality and incorporate it into the allocation of opportunities to learn, work and do business.

To achieve inclusion, those who allocate opportunity should take many factors into account among them geography, gender, ethnicity, economic status and cultural diversity: Gender or race need not be the deciding factors, but they should be among the criteria used to overcome exclusion and promote inclusion of all those who are qualified.

Turning to another key subject, Price emphasized that cities are still the hub of the American economy and of American life. Eight out of ten Americans live in metropolitan areas with cities at the core, accounting for 83 percent of our national income.

"Instead of flashing about every form of Federal aid to cities and casting the unskilled poor adrift... society should embrace and finance programs that improve urban schools, keep youngsters in safe and supportive environments, and

See PRICE RESPONDS/page 10

PEOPLE

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3

NEWARK—Walking Robot Competition for 7th to 10th graders at NJIT. For more info call Stacey Hersh at 201-596-3434.

NEW YORK—Music from different cultures at Battery Park at 7 p.m. For more info call 212-267-8700.

AUGUST 4 - 6

PITTSBURGH—The Magic of Alexandria Balmont Festival family event. For more info call 908-735-0970.

AUGUST 4, 6

NEWARK—Great Adventure Trip program at NJIT, dealing with the principles of physics, for high school students. For more info call Stacey Hersh 201-596-3434.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

NEWARK—Basic Tenant Rights workshop for landlords at 85 Fleming Ave. at 10 a.m. For more info call 201-344-7210.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

BELMAR—Family Fun Evening Kitefly at the North end of the beach. For more info call 908-787-4945.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9

MOUNTAINVIEW—The NJ Symphony Orchestra at Echo Lake Park at 6:30 p.m. For more info call 908-527-4900 or 908-352-8410.

EAST ORANGE—Decorating Tips with Sytess 4 Sytess at East Orange High School at 4:15 p.m. For more info call 201-473-2193.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10

HOBOKEN—Movies under the stars series features *King Kong* at Erie Lackawanna Plaza at 9 p.m. For more info call 201-420-2207.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11

NEWARK—Family Theater with *One Family One Planet*, a musical celebration of our diverse world at the Newark Museum at 1:30 p.m. For more info call 201-596-6550.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12

BLOOMFIELD—Essex County 4th Fair & Youth Festival at Brookdale Park. For more info call 201-268-3500 or 201-678-7507.

NEW YORK—Fix your own bike workshops, projects and bike wash at River Terrace Road in Hudson River Park from 2 to 5 p.m. for ages 2 and up. For more info call 212-267-9700.

AUGUST 12, 13

NEWARK—Tenth Annual Africa Newark Festival '95 at Military Park from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more info and vending space call 201-642-0677.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15

EAST ORANGE—East Orange Caribbean Expo at East Orange High School Annex at 6 p.m. For more info call 201-268-5147.

THRU AUGUST 15

PLAINFIELD—"Basic Literacy Tutoring Training Workshop" on Tuesdays at the Plainfield Public Library from 5 to 9 p.m.

For more info or to be a tutor call 908-755-7998.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16
MOUNTAINVIEW—A Reggae, Calypso Evening featuring Johnny Youth and The Verdict at Echo Lake Park at 8:30 p.m. For more info call 908-527-4900 or 908-352-8410.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17
HOBOKEN—Movies under the stars series features *The Wizard of Oz* (1938) at Erie Lackawanna Plaza at 9 p.m. For more info call 201-420-2207.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18
EAST ORANGE—East Orange Teen Fest at Sovereign Park from 3 to 9 p.m. For more info call 201-266-5147.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19
NEW YORK—Walk through the rain forest program in Hudson River Park from 9 to 7 p.m. For more info call 212-267-9700.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20
EAST ORANGE—East Orange Caribbean Parade and Carnival at East Orange High School gym from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more info call 201-266-5147.

MONDAY, AUGUST 21
WESTFIELD—Program on US government securities at Rutgers Cooperative Extension at 7:30 p.m. For more info call 908-654-9854.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23
PATERSON—Reception for Hispanic poster exhibit "Images: Contra El Sida" (Images against AIDS) at the Paterson Public Library from 1 to 3 p.m. For more info call 201-357-3016.

AUGUST 26, 27
SOMERSET—"Antiques Weekend in Somerset" at the Garden State Exhibit Center from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more info call 201-384-0010.

THRU AUGUST 26
NEW YORK—Myths of American History: Beyond the Cherry Tree at the Fraunces Tavern Museum. For more info call 212-425-1778.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30
MOUNTAINVIEW—Oldies Night featuring the Party Dolls at Echo Lake Park at 6:30 p.m. For more info call 908-527-4900 or 908-352-8410.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31
NEW YORK—Haunts of the Hudson at 7 p.m. Registration is required. For more info call 212-267-9700.

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 5
CRANFORD—Fitness Center at Union County College offers fitness non-card courses. For more info call 908-709-7600.

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 9
MONTCLAIR—Dance program at Montclair State University. For more info call 201-655-4443.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
NEWARK—JVSO Awards Benefit at the Newark Club at 6 p.m. For more info call 201-374-2000 ext. 12.

Legall receives Clemons award



LAWRENCEVILLE—Aashie Legall (center) of Newark, a senior journalism major at Rider University in Lawrenceville, N.J., is congratulated by Rubin Joyner (left), Rider's EOP director, and Bill Clark (right), chair of Rider's EOP Community Advisory Board, for winning the annual John H. Clemons Memorial Award of Merit. The award, presented annually at the EOP Awards Banquet, is in memory of the late Mr. Clemons and his perseverance in obtaining a degree. Legall who is active in campus activities, exemplifies that dedication.



ECC and TESC sign Baccalaureate completion agreement

TRENTON—Dr. A Zachary Yamba, president, Essex County College and Dr. George A. Pruitt (left), president, Thomas Edison State College, both signed the New Jersey Baccalaureate Degree Completion Program agreement which allows Essex County College to participate in a baccalaureate degree completion program with Thomas Edison State College. Essex County is the 14th community college to participate in the program with Thomas Edison College. Photo courtesy of Thomas Edison College.

Simms and Taylor honored for years of service



MONTCLAIR—Joyce Simms (l) and Joan Taylor (r) of East Orange, were honored recently for their dedicated service to the hospital during MCH's annual Service Awards ceremony. Simms is a 5-year employee of Montclair Community Hospital who works in the hospital's housekeeping department. Taylor is a 25-year employee of the hospital and is a messenger in the nursing department. Both women were presented with a service award pin, and a certificate for dinner for two at a local restaurant. Taylor received a sterling silver pocket to commemorate her 25 years of service. Photo courtesy of MCH.



Barbara Gadegbeku wins Tandy Technology award

SUMMIT—Barbara A. Gadegbeku of Plainfield and Maria R. Genoni teachers at Oak Knolls School of Holy Child in Summit were recent recipients of academic excellence awards at the National Science Teachers Association Convention in Philadelphia.

Gadegbeku received the Outstanding Math/Science/Computer Science Teacher Tandy Prize Award and \$2,500 and Genoni garnered the Outstanding Math/Science/Computer Science Student National Honorable Mention.

Tandy Technology Scholars recognizes academic excellence especially in the areas of mathematics, science and computer science. One hundred teachers will receive \$2,500 each, and 100 students will receive cash scholarships of \$1,000 each. These recipients of the Tandy Prize were proclaimed "Champions of the Classroom."

The program is the largest single awards program to honor both students and teachers.

Almost 72 percent of all secondary schools in the United States are enrolled in this education initiative funded by Tandy Corporation and administered by Texas Christian University. The program is open to students and teachers in accredited high schools throughout the United States. The Tandy Prize recipients were selected by a panel of educators and approved by the National Advisory Council.

Sorority addresses public policy issues

WASHINGTON, DC—Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. members at the Public Policy Information Conference in Washington, DC addressing policy concerns such as the contract with America, crime, health reform, affirmative action, and other issues emanating from the nation's capital. Pictured with sorority members Melody Parker, (l) and Lynda D. Clarke is Congresswoman Carol Mosley-Braun (D, IL) (r).

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Freedom's Journal was important then.

FREEDOM'S JOURNAL.

"RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION."

NEW-YORK, FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1827.

works of trivial importance, we shall consider it a part of our duty to recommend to our young readers, such authors as will not only enlarge their stock of useful knowledge, but such as will also serve to stimulate them to higher attainments in science.

We trust also, that through the columns of the *Freedom's Journal*, many a noble narrative which they have published; the establishment of the republic of Hayti after years of sanguinary warfare; its subsequent progress in all the arts of civilization; and the advancement of liberal ideas in South America, where despotism has given place to free government.

of his superior talents, faithful and sound personal observations.

After the Revolutionary War, free Negroes became increasingly active in the anti-slavery movement. Some of them had fought in the war. Others had escaped to freedom during the war or had gained freedom through military service. All of them had heard the words "liberty" and "freedom" over and over and not only desired such a state for themselves but also for the black millions still in bondage.

They began to speak about freedom, write about freedom and to meet among themselves and with white abolitionists dedicated to their cause. Pulpit, platform and press were turned over to their use and the demand grew for political action.

Petitions were drawn up and presented to embarrassed, more often enraged, state legislatures. "Life" the free Negroes had, but "liberty" was precarious, and "the pursuit of happiness" still a far-distant goal.

Techniques for achieving freedom for all Negroes varied from preaching and praying, speaking and organizing, to outright demands for violence. David Walker, free-born but the son of a slave father, hated slavery so intensely that he moved from North Carolina to Massachusetts, where he became a leader in the Boston Colored Association and an agent for the first Negro newspaper, *Freedom's Journal*.

Reprinted from *A Pictorial History of the Negro in America*—by Langston Hughes and Milton Meltzer, © 1966.

City News is just as important now.

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Towns and cities must thrive

It is amazing that with the growth of New Jersey's cities and towns, black people are not able to participate in this revitalization. As new buildings spring up and business districts are refurbished, we see very few African Americans as contractors or new business owners or beneficiaries of this growth.

Take North Avenue in Plainfield for example. Every other community around Plainfield looks inviting, orderly and lawful. As you ride through other communities to get to Plainfield on the train, those communities appear to be places where one could visit and shop. Unfortunately, the North Avenue station area presents a picture of crime, crime, and abandonment.

Why is this? Just as in other predominantly black communities, why is crime, blight and lawlessness tolerated?

A great deal of money has been spent on North Avenue to do the streets, plant trees, etc. Now one might say, "See. I told you, those people can't take care of anything."

However, one gets a different picture from the business owners and some of the tenants who have struggled to remain on the block with little help from the city administration, city council, police and absentee landlords.

We are glad to see Mayor Furi's administration focus some attention on the gateway to the city. It is for sure that business owners, landlords, tenants, city administration, public works and police will have to work together to prove that the Plainfields of the world can survive and thrive when we all do our part.

Letters to the Editor

It's time to save the children

Dear Editor:

The tactics that have been employed by the Newark Board of Education, to thwart the implementation of much-needed systemic changes, are reprehensible and self-serving. The board has severely exacerbated the tragic conditions to which our children have been subjected by the system for decades.

The damage perpetrated against thousands of Newark students in the past, as a result of the inferior quality of education afforded most of them, is irreparable and unforgivable. It must be halted—NOW—in order for this generation—and those that follow—to be adequately educated and effectively prepared for productive roles in the future.

The culture of mediocrity, which has been prevalent in the Newark school system, must be replaced with one that embodies the pursuit of educational excellence for the children as its uncompromising mission.

There is more than enough blame to go around for the present school crisis. Surely, the Newark education system has been a dismal failure for some time; however, the state must share equally for the system's failures. Still unanswered is the question of why did the state permit the system to languish in its atypical condition for so long? This question must be addressed.

Nonetheless, it is time now to begin the educational reform in Newark. If the state "takeover" is what it takes—so be it. Let the reform begin for the sake of our children and for ourselves.

I welcome Dr. Beverly Hall, who has been selected as Newark's acting superintendent. It does not appear to me that she is either "a part of the state establishment" or a "caterpillar" rather, she is an instrument for positive change and hope for the children. It is incumbent upon the many dedicated teachers and administrators, students and parents, and all other stakeholders to support the new school administration and not "hold their feet to the fire" to see they deliver on their promises.

It is time to save the children. LET THE REFORM BEGIN.

William O. Payne

Thank you Plainfield

Dear Editor:

Holy Family School in Plainfield existed to provide a quality education in a markedly Catholic and Christian environment. The school during its 9 years of existence gave parents an opportunity to send their children to the only Catholic school in the city.

Now that Holy Family School has closed its doors forever, we all need to remember how important it was for our children, families, parishes and city. Prior to its existence, St. Bernard's School offered that same opportunity to its children as did St. Mary's School. There is a long history and tradition of Catholic education in the City of Plainfield, and that has now come to an end.

It is with a deep sense of gratitude that I say thanks to all those students who were a part of the life of Holy Family School, and prior to it, St. Bernard's School. I would hope that the time you spent in those classrooms and halls has helped in your growth, formation and awareness of God in your lives. Thanks, too, to all of you parents who entrusted those children to the teachers and staffs of both schools.

Thanks, to all the nuns, teachers, and staffs of Holy Family and St. Bernard's Schools who gave of their time, their knowledge, their faith and their love of children in helping in the learning process. Thanks, also, to the parishioners of St. Bernard of Clairvaux Church and St. Mary's Church for their support of Holy Family School, and Catholic education these many years.

A special word of thanks to the parishioners of St. Bernard of Clairvaux Church for their pride and dedication to their school. Thanks, as well, to all those volunteers who gave of their time and energy in whatever way they could for the good of the school and Catholic education. Thanks, too, to all the citizens of Plainfield for their continuing and ongoing support of the Catholic school in our city.

A special word of thanks to the mayors, City Councils, the Boards of Education of the city of Plainfield for their continuing support and affirmation of Catholic education in our city and the Catholic school as a viable and visible presence of God in Plainfield.

Finally, thanks to Almighty God for giving us all a vision and enabling us to help make that vision real in the instruction and formation of our children, who became young adults. It is with a great deal of pride that I am able to affirm all of you and the work that we have attempted to do in this Catholic school.

Rev. Joseph F. Barbano
Pastor, St. Bernard's Church

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PLAINFIELD AS I SEE IT...

by Connie Woodruff

Governor Christie Whitman deserves a bushel and a peck of brownie points for staking a courageous stand on behalf of continuing affirmative action in New Jersey.

Clearly the put personal consideration and a commitment to do the right thing above political expediency. Governor Whitman has obviously not forgotten that the votes cast by minorities and women gave her a slight, but winning margin over her Democratic opponent in the election that catapulted her to victory.

Those who have benefited from an affirmative action policy in New Jersey and elsewhere should applaud rather than question her motives. Affirmative action is a creature of politics and politicians and is seriously in danger of being abolished by some of the same politicians who supported its passage.

several decades ago.

New Jersey is not the bastion of liberal thinking and actions we like to think it is, not by a long shot. We are not light years away from the plantation mentality firmly implanted in this state. Until legislative act in 1949 outlawed discrimination in schools, housing, employment and public facilities.

I have lived in New Jersey all my life and been privy to the good and the bad suffered by African Americans. Believe me, it is better now, in 1995, than it has ever been. Although for many African Americans we have a long way to go in our pursuit of the American Dream.

Consider if you will what life in New Jersey was like before 1950, when cities like Newark, Jersey City, Paterson, Trenton and Camden were populated mostly by immigrants who poured into the United States between the two World Wars.

Neighborhoods were ethnic enclaves of Jews, Italians, African Americans and Middle Europeans. Mostly everybody was "working class," whether they were the Jewish merchants, Italian builders, Middle European factory workers or African Americans who were the last to be hired and first to be fired from any job they were lucky to get.

It still hurts to think there were times when even with college degrees could only be hired as red caps when they were capable of being railroad engineers and company executives.

Before World War II, black men worked as hard carriers on construction jobs as did white architectural firms had a policy against hiring black architects because they were considered unable to read blueprints and supervise work crews.

Women fared little better. Teachers could find jobs in southern segre-

gated schools but were few and far between in the North. The same went for nurses who found work mostly in the hospitals attached to medical schools or that catered to black patients.

After women with college degrees found work as domestics for suburban families because the "Madame" wanted her children exposed to an "educated negro."

We were half way into the 20th century before black cops were the norm rather than the exception and black firemen didn't emerge until the waning years of the 1950s. We don't talk about it as often as we should, but there continues to be a thread of racial disharmony woven in the fabric of life in New Jersey.

It is manifested by the treatment of immigrants who work on some South Jersey farms; in the miseducation of urban school children; in the downgrading

See AS I SEE...page 5

The reasons for the attack on affirmative action

by Rev. Reginald Jackson

Many in this country knew that affirmative action would be a major and controversial issue. Recently, the lid came off and emotions and reactions boiled over. The spark for the eruption came because of the vote by the Board of Regents of the University of California to end affirmative action in admissions, contracts and hiring.

Over the next several weeks, we will use this column to address several matters related to the issue of affirmative action. This week we want to address why affirmative action is under attack in the first place.

Why after more than 25 years affirmative action being attacked, labeled as reverse discrimination, said to be divisive and demeaning and placing an unfair stigma on minorities and a disadvantage to white males in particular? Let it be clear, it is no coincidence affirmative action is now under as-

sault. It is under attack not because it is not worked, not because it is reverse discrimination and not because it is bad for America.

Affirmative action is under attack because of politics and racial reasons. In fairness, supporters must admit there are some problems and there is some unfairness about affirmative action and we will address them as well, but those problems and unfairness are small and have been magnified by opponents to exploit the issue.

In the 1994 election, Republicans won because three things happened. Minorities didn't turn out, women voters didn't turn out, and others found themselves working longer hours to make less money. With downgrading

many white males also found themselves without training for many of the jobs because of affirmative action requirements. As a result, the complaint is made that jobs they could and should have been given to less qualified blacks because of affirmative action.

Susan Smith in *Union*, St. Paul, tragically took the life of her two children by drowning them while they were locked in her car. She told the world that a black man stole her car with the children in it. Now the world knows that was not the truth, but what is troubling is it was easy to blame a black man and have the world believe it.

Blacks, according to some in this country, are the cause for most of the nation's problems such as crime, even though most crimes are committed by white, welfare, even though most people are white, and now affirmative action.

To make this point clear, listen to

the rhetoric from the opponents of affirmative action. Affirmative action includes minorities and women, yet all the talk is about racial preferences. I listened to Gov. Pete Wilson, Sen. Job Dole and Phil Gramm, Con. Gary Franks and Regent Ward Connerly last week; all of them kept emphasizing racial preferences and quotas. In fact, when Jesse Jackson asked Gov. Wilson a question about gender preferences, he was bermed and jawed because he hadn't thought about it. Isn't it interesting that most of the focus has been on racial preferences when the biggest beneficiaries of affirmative action are white people?

In addition to that, the opponents of affirmative action continually say that less qualified people are getting jobs and being admitted to colleges, universities and getting contracts. It is impossible to say if a black gets a job or contract over a white, they have to be

See REASONS FOR ATTACK/page 6

Why we must save Mumia Abu-Jamal

by Michael Burton

On August 17, 1995, at 10 p.m., Brother Mumia Abu-Jamal is scheduled to be executed. Despite the fact that several key issues are in debate about the case, Governor Tom Ridge still signed a death warrant for Brother Mumia, who has been on death row for 13 years. Several key issues are in dispute such as:

- Mumia was not allowed to act as his own attorney, and when he objected to a court appointed lawyer, who was assigned despite his own objections, he was thrown out of court. He would only be in court for about half of the proceedings.
- The officer that Mumia is accused of murdering was killed with a .44 caliber bullet. Mumia's hired pistol was never fired.
- The police made no effort to even determine if Mumia's pistol had ever been fired.
- Several witnesses who collaborated as a description of the incident as described by Mumia have never allowed to testify.
- There are only a few of the questions that are raised in a 300-page appeal filed by Mumia's attorneys.

To further this travesty of justice the presiding judge, Judge Albert Sabo, is a lifetime member of the Fraternal Order of Police and who, according to the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, has put more people on death row than any other American judge. Of these 31 sentenced to death row, 29 were black men.

A great tragedy is taking place in our midst. No conscientious person can outright say that this man can be put to death with these questions lingering. But as America's whether on O.J. and black people agree O.J. is guilty or not, a black freedom fighter sits in solitary confinement awaiting his death for 30 days away.

The struggle that is ongoing is not Mumia's test or trial, but really the trial for all those who claim to struggle against racism and for the oppressed, or the path of liberation have all become catch phrases. To some they have been transformed into a button that can be worn at rallies or gatherings but has no deep significance to the individual. So the button is taken off and put on a mantle, and there it sits until the next rally or gathering.

Mumia is more than a journalist

sitting in prison, but a symbol of black liberation theology and struggle. And in a day that all branches of government have turned a deaf ear to those who have little or no power, and in a time where conservatism and capitalism is the ruling mindset throughout the government, Mumia becomes that much more important.

Our community cannot allow the Mumia issue to be corrupted, co-opted or confused, as so many issues involving our people have and continue to be. As those with personal and private agendas intercede, and as organizations and people create new issues, we must focus on the issue at hand: life and death of Mumia, in particular, and black struggle in general.

The National Association of Black Journalists, an organization which Mumia was once president of the Philadelphia Chapter, released a statement that said, "the organization... does not see this unfortunate case as a test of the labor for its own sake, but as a test of the labor for its own sake as it feels compelled to take a stand at this time."

This sick group of journalists then issued a statement several days later stating "setting aside the incendiary

legal issues of the guilt or innocence of Mumia Abu-Jamal, or whether he deserves a new trial, Abu-Jamal still has the right to speak, write, be heard and interviewed."

Although they are correct in theory, does it matter if Mumia can be interviewed if he is dead? Such flip flop and confused moves by our organizations only shows the confusion that is in our people. The need for Mumia, a critic, analyzer, and a solution giver is ever clear.

Such a flicker of light, a flame of hope, cannot be allowed to be extinguished by the doors of an evil regime that has, and is, reeking chaos, death, and destruction among all our people.

Bill Tatum, editor-in-chief of the *Amsterdam News* stated in an editorial, "unless there is such a thing as a Mumia Abu-Jamal will die on August 17, 1995."

I believe in miracles, and I believe in our people. I believe that we will rise to the challenge and do everything we can to get Mumia out, even above the blue skies, to make sure that our beloved brother is not executed, and I feel. For our people's sake, our children's sake, and humanity's sake, I pray I am right.

ALONG THE COLOR LINE

Full employment and affirmative action

Dr. Manning Marable

What has escalated white America's opposition to affirmative action, race and gender-based programs which attempt to redress past and present-day patterns of discrimination? More than any other single factor, I would say that the politics of discrimination is set into motion by white male fear.

The recent affirmative action debate has occurred in the context where white working class and middle income people have been steadily losing ground economically. Although gains in disposable personal income, adjusted for inflation and taxes, increased at an annual rate of over 3 percent in 1994 and the beginning of this year, that increase is only due to the fact that millions of two career couples are now in the labor force.

Real wages for the average household over the past decade have been either stagnant or have fallen sharply. According to economist Stephen S.

Roach, in the first fifty months of the current economic recovery, about 7.8 million jobs were created. By comparison, that was almost 40 percent less than the average rate of job growth in the two previous expansions. Globalized capitalism increasingly pits workers against each other internationally, forcing down wages and fringe benefits, and creating nonunion work places.

A major reason why white males are as a group, by all opinion polls, most strongly opposed to affirmative action is that they perceive themselves to be particularly vulnerable to job loss in the two (and domestic) economic eras. Since the mid-1970s, the real median income for U.S. males has remained flat or has declined, while women's income actually rose 18 percent above the rate of inflation.

Males are far less willing than women to reeducate themselves, to seek new employment opportunities. According to the Census Bureau, over one million women over age 40

are currently enrolled in college, twice the number of men in post-secondary institutions. White, native-born males now represent less than one-third of the U.S. labor force. Blacks and minorities compete successfully for traditionally "white male" jobs, while men are inclined to blame the erosion of their opportunities on affirmative action policies.

What's really at work here is the structural transformation of the U.S. economy over the past quarter century. According to economists Barry Bluestone and Bennett Harrison, between 1960 and 1976, 22.3 million jobs disappeared due to factory, office and store closings across the U.S., and through the relocation of businesses from state-to-state and out of the country.

The total number of jobs destroyed represented more than one-third of all jobs which had existed in 1969. In the mid-1960s, there were 2.5 unemployed persons for every vacant job; by the late 1970s, the

ratio had grown to 5.0 unemployed persons for every vacant job.

In a city like New York today, for example, there are roughly seven job openings for every available job vacancy. In Harlem, about 40 percent of the population is below the poverty line, and nearly half of all people above age 18 are unemployed, underemployed and/or involuntarily out of the formal labor market. Competition is fierce even for low wage service employment. In Harlem's fast food industry, the ratio of job applicants to hires is about 14 to one.

Today, there are about 7.5 million Americans who are "officially" unemployed, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics. However, there are nearly five million part-time workers who are underemployed. You can't find it. There are also another seven million "discouraged workers," who the Bureau of Labor Statistics classifies as outside the active job market.

See FULL EMPLOYMENT/page 10

YOUTH BEAT

KIDS CALENDAR

DAY CAMP:
EDISON—Summer Camp for Young Athletes at Middlesex County College. For more info call 908-966-2556.

ATTENTION:
RAHWAY—Ulrich Memorial Pool in Rahway River Park is open everyday. For more info call 908-381-4345.

PATERSON—Summer Vacation Reading Club at the Paterson Free Public Library thru August 24. For more info call 201-357-3002.

THRU AUGUST 10
CRANFORD—NewsCamp '95 a two-week program designed to strengthen writing skills through journalism techniques for youth grades 6-12 at Union County College. For more info call 908-789-7401.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2
METUCHEN—Alice's Wonderland at the Forum Theatre at 10 a.m. For more info call 908-548-0582.

MOUNTAINVIEW—The comedy magic of Joseph Keppel at Trillside Nature & Science Center at 1:30 p.m. For more info call 508-788-5870.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3
NEW YORK—Just For Kids: Marie Brooks' Pan Caribbean Dance at Lincoln Center's Fountain Plaza at 10:30 a.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4
NEWARK—Family Live Theater with Rana at 1:30 p.m. in the Dryfoos Memorial Garden. For more info call 201-596-6550.

AUGUST 5, 6
NEW YORK—Design and paint your own T-shirts at The Children's Museum of the Arts starting at noon. For more info call 212-941-9198.

THRU AUGUST 8
PLAINFIELD—The Muppet Band performs every Tuesday at Library Park, on College Plaza at 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9
METUCHEN—Sleeping Beauty at the Forum Theatre at 10 a.m. For more info call 908-548-0582.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12
NEW YORK—African Dancing with Regina Yates at Lincoln Center's South Plaza at 4 p.m.

NEW YORK—Puppets, Stories and Juggling: "Storytelling and The Story of The Blues" activities at Lincoln Center's North Plaza from 2 to 5 p.m.

AUGUST 12, 13
NEW YORK—Create and decorate a movable toy at The Children's Museum of the Arts starting at noon. For more info call 212-941-9198.

THRU AUGUST 15
NORTH BRANCH—Mystery! Who Stole The Night at Raritan Valley Community College at 7 p.m. For more info call 908-231-8805.

Board of Education honors outstanding students

TRENTON—During its Board of Education meeting, the Trenton Board of Education recognized some of its outstanding students of the year in a variety of categories, including scholarship and leadership.

Students who were honored for academic and extracurricular excellence are:

Martha Castro, class valedictorian, will be attending the University of Florida.

Julie Torruellas, class salutatorian, will be attending the University of Massachusetts.

Kathryn Johnson, leadership, student council president, and Award

Winning Debater, will be attending Spellman College.

Terrance Cauthen, national champion of the American Boxing Federation, will be attending Temple University in 1997.

Christopher Horton, outstanding engineering pursuit, will be attending DeVry Institute.

Carl Felton, accepted to the United States Military Academy at West Point, the first African American in 25 years.

Dessalyn Jolley, class president, received Mayor Palmer's, Trenton First Award.

Students hook up to community computer program

NEWARK—Students from Newark's Newton Street School and their families, who are residents of New Community Corporation (NCC) housing, are embarking on the computer superhighway as participants in the Multi-User Session in Community (MUSIC) program.

Under the program, which is funded by a \$106,950 grant from the U.S.

Explore the Animal Kingdom at Newark Library

NEWARK—Keeping all age groups in mind, The Newark Public Library presents The Animal Kingdom. The exhibition comprises of more than 200 images from the unique selection of prints, posters, and other works on paper from the library's special collections department. The exhibition will be installed in the galleries of the main library, on Washington Street, from August 4 to September 9.

The show attempts to encourage the growing sentiment in favor of cherishing all living creatures great and small. Some of the visual highlights include prints of birds and animals by John J. Audubon; drawings for Disney's celebrated film *Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs*; racing horses by Currier and Ives; 19th-century picture books from Japan; and books showing animals by New Jersey artist Lois Morrison.

The exhibition is free and open to the public. For more information, call William J. Dane, curator at 201-733-7745.

Department of Commerce, 20 families will receive state of the art computer work stations and software for their homes to link them with their community, health care professionals, social service agencies and information services.

Working together, Newton Street School, the Office of Technology of the Newark Board of Education and New Community Corporation will implement a communications network, a community bulletin board service and a shared database. UMDNJ is involved in NCC another program goal, to improve health care.

According to Florence Williams, NCC Director of Human Services, "residents will have private computer accounts and will be able to access the database and contribute their experiences and talents to the database, in addition to receiving formal information from available health services and other professionals. In addition to the computers being placed in private homes, additional computers will be available for other residents to use in the school and sites in New Community," Williams stated.

Pamela Morgan, project coordinator, Newark Board of Education, Department of Computer Education and Technology, said the neighborhood oriented telecommunications project would allow families to network with each other, to communicate with medical staff at UMDNJ, New Community programs, Newton Street School and other information resources.

Dr. Alan Shaw, who created the system, said the local Making Healthy Music program is the only one of its kind funded by the Department of Commerce and is expected to become a model program.



CPNJ holds 9th Touch Football Tournament

EAST RUTHERFORD—Cerebral Palsy of North Jersey (CPNJ) held its Ninth Annual Touch Football Tournament at Glants Stadium, and raised over \$30,000 for the East Orange agency. Pictured at the event are: Harry Mahoney, (kneeling) volunteer committee member, and some of the children from CPNJ's Horizon School, including Arlonzo and Arlonzo Holland of East Orange, Martin Fitzgerald of Irvington, and John Berres of West Orange.

Students and host families sought for exchange program

TIBURON, CA—The American International Youth Student Exchange Program, (AIYSEP) a non-profit high school foreign exchange program in the United States is seeking host families for 25 students from high schools in Europe and other foreign countries for the coming school year. Students will arrive in the United States in late August, attend the local school and return home in late June next year.

The students, all fluent in English, have been screened by their school counselors in their home country and will receive medical insurance and spending money.

Host families are also being sought for 25 European and foreign students, ages 16 and 17, for a duration of 4 to 6 weeks in the upcoming

summer. American families with small children are welcome to participate in both programs. All families hosting a student for the summer, semester and year can deduct \$30.00 a month for income tax purposes.

AIYSEP is also seeking American high school students, ages 15-18, who would like to spend a high school semester or year with a European family or to participate in a 4 or 6 week family stay abroad in the summer. Students are screened by AIYSEP school counselors and educators in the local schools. Candidates who have evidence of maturity, superior character and knowledge of English and a foreign language can be finalists and become exchange students.

Interested students and families are asked to please contact the AIYSEP international headquarters at 1-800-347-7575, at 201-266-5431.

Volunteers needed for Teen Fest

EAST ORANGE—Teen and adult volunteers are needed for the East Orange Fourth Annual Teen Fest. "Summer '95 Jammin' in the Park," is the theme of this year's festival which is scheduled for Friday, August 25, from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m., in Sovereign Park. For more information call Francine Thorton, at 201-266-5431.

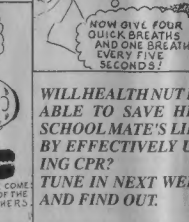
Read any good books this summer? Many can be found at your local public library. Don't waste your summer READ.

BOOKWORM & THE AFROCENTRIC KIDS™

Story by Greg Morehead

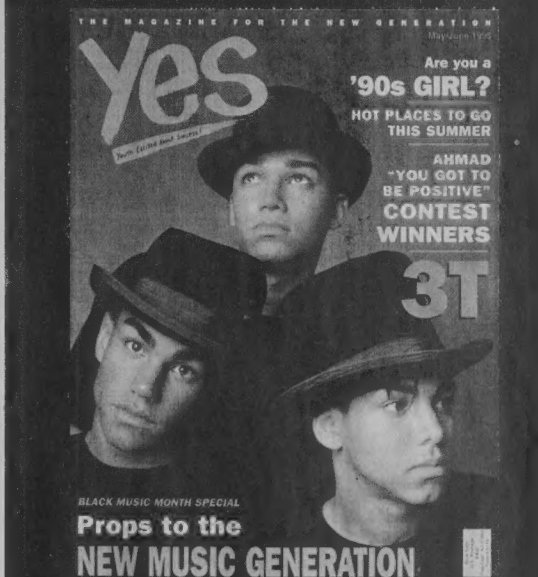
Artwork by Darnell Bradley

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RELIGIOUS CALENDAR

AUGUST 8-13

PLAINFIELD—Eleventh annual Holy Convocation "Focus on Glory" nightly services with guest keynote speakers at 7:30 p.m. at Rose of Sharon Community Church. For more info call 908-757-6358.

AUGUST 10-12
CRANFORD—Jesus Christ Super Star a play at First Presbyterian Church. For more info call 908-351-7282.

AUGUST 11, 12

PLAINFIELD—The Calvary Baptist Church Festival. Meet with live entertainment, food, games, rides, vendors, and more. For more info call 908-561-6429.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

PLAINFIELD—Eleventh annual Holy Convocation "Focus on Glory" at 2 p.m. with keynote speaker Bishop Herbert L. Bright at the Rose of Sharon Community Church. For more info call 908-757-6358.

MONDAY, AUGUST 14

EAST ORANGE—Afternoon of Gospel Music at Severn Park from 3 to 7 p.m. For more info call 201-266-5147 or 5123.

HEALTH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3

EAST ORANGE—Red Cross Instructor Candidate Training course at 7 p.m. at the Red Cross, 106 Washington St. For more info call 201-676-0600.

MONDAY, AUGUST 7

WESTFIELD—Support group for people caring for elderly or chronically ill at St. Helen's Church at 6 p.m. For more info call 908-253-8757.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8

CRANFORD—Substance Abuse: A Family Disease preventive health seminar at Union County College at 7 p.m. For more info call 908-798-7600.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12

EAST ORANGE—Red Cross CPR recertification days at 9 a.m. at the Red Cross, 106 Washington St. For more info call 201-676-0600.

Rally called to stop execution of Abu-Jamal

PHILADELPHIA—In response to Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge's plan to execute African-American journalist and community activist Mumia Abu-Jamal on August 17, community, labor and legal defense organizations have announced the formation of the "Emergency Mobilization to Save Mumia."

The Emergency Mobilization plans a major national rally for Saturday, August 12 in Philadelphia to stop the execution and demand a new trial for Abu-Jamal. The rally is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. outside Philadelphia City Hall. Protest rallies will also be taking place in other cities and countries.

The Emergency Mobilization was initiated by the National People's Campaign, the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia, the Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition, the Quixote Center and

others.

At a recent forum in Philadelphia's 1199 Union Hall July 15, the union's president, Henry Nicholas, urged people to make August 12 "the biggest demonstration against racism ever seen in Philadelphia." The union, which represents 10,000 hospital and healthcare workers, has donated office space and its support to the cause.

Abu-Jamal supporters maintain that he is innocent, and that he was the target of a monstrous frame-up due to his untiring efforts to expose police brutality in Philadelphia. Abu-Jamal's legal team, headed by civil rights attorney Leonard Weinglass, has filed motions for a new trial to show evidence that was suppressed during the first trial.

According to supporters, Judge Sabo is now stalling the appeal by showing the determination of the governor, justice, district attorney and po-

lice department to execute Abu-Jamal before the real facts of the case are heard.

"There is growing mass opposition to Abu-Jamal's execution," said Berta Joubert of the National People's Campaign, a grassroots group fighting for civil rights and social justice. "Millions of people, black and white, Latino, Asian and Native American, are finally learning the truth about this case and beginning to demand that he be granted a new trial. But there's not much time. This opposition has to be mobilized in the streets quickly to prevent the legal lynching of an innocent man."

Resolutions and appeals on Abu-Jamal's behalf have been issued by a

wide variety of organizations, including the San Francisco Labor Council, AFL-CIO, the Detroit City Council, the Madison, WI City Council, the African National Congress of South Africa, and the Congress of South African Trade Unions.

Other prominent supporters include former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark; Pennsylvania State Senator Roxanne Jones; civil rights attorney William Kunstler; Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, Archbishop of Detroit; Sonya Sanchez, author and professor, Temple University; David Davies, president, AFSCME Local 1072, Md.; Tonya Anyia, former governor of New Mexico; Rev. Lucius Walker, IFCO/Pastors for Peace; at-

torney Alamo Maddox, Jr.; former death row inmate Clarence Brantley of Texas; and Rabbi Rebecca Appel, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Philadelphia.

Joubert stated, "We are absolutely committed to making August 12 a truly massive action that will shake Mumia's execution and force him to Mumia's execution. Our 60 chapters around the U.S. are organizing buses, posters and mass leafleting to build the Philadelphia action."

For more information, or to register for the demonstration, contact the Emergency Mobilization in Philadelphia at 215-724-1618 or in New York at 212-633-6646.

Mini-grants available from Union County

ELIZABETH—The Union County Bureau of Environmental Affairs is offering mini-grants to non-profit organizations to fund litter cleanup projects on county parklands, along waterways or roads under county jurisdiction. The program is funded through a Clean Communities Grant from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and is part of the county's three-fold attack on litter which consists of cleanup, education and enforcement.

Freeholder Henry Kurtz, liaison to the Environmental Health Advisory Board, commented on the benefits of the program, stating, "County parkland and roadways get cleaned making them aesthetically more attractive and safe for wildlife."

Studies show that people are less likely to litter in areas that are clean. In addition to educating our volunteers on the hazards of litter, hopefully these programs will deter people from littering in the future."

County manager Ann Baran said, "This is a great way for non-profit organizations to raise money while performing a public service at the same time."

Mini-grant dollars range from \$200 to \$400, depending on the number of volunteers. Each organization must have a minimum of three hours and cleanup at least two miles of county road or waterway or 20 acres of parkland.

The Bureau of Environmental Affairs provides each volunteer with a T-shirt displaying the logo Keep Union County Litter Free as well as gloves and garbage bags. Garbage and recyclables remain at the cleanup site and are removed by the county's Division of Parks and Recreation.

To obtain a mini-grant application or to learn more about the program, call the Union County Bureau of Environmental Affairs at 908-654-9890.

Seminary Baptist seeks support for building

PATERSON—On September 24, the Seminary Baptist Church in Paterson will celebrate the laying of a cornerstone and is seeking support to make this event possible. The church is creating a souvenir journal and ad space is still available for interested organizations or individuals who wish to support the event. For ad prices and sizes please call The Seminary Baptist Church at 201-595-7618 or 201-595-0718.

Seven plead guilty

Continued from page 1

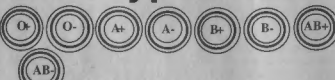
"They called us niggers...[and] armed themselves with] bats, mace and riot gear," said Morehouse student Ayinde Brinkley of the police officers. Brinkley was visiting at the time of the protest and participated. "People are assaulted and they have to defend themselves for being assaulted," said Eunice Brinkley, mother of Ayinde, who says she was horrified as she witnessed her son being dragged away by his hair while being maced on TV.

"We had a message to get across and we thought we had a first amendment right to do so," said Rutgers senior Treavor Phillips as he handed down 60 hours of community service in Middlesex County and fines of \$252 each.

"They picked seven people out of a group," said Steven Guzman a Rutgers Junior who said he was being clubbed and sprayed with mace along with other students. None of the seven students were arrested on the scene but were sent summons based on a video taken of the protest.

The students have suggested that they were targeted because of their high profile on campus. Steve Guzman was formerly student body president, Damian Santiago and Jamal basketball team and Treavor Phillips is the president of 100 Black Men, an organization dedicated to graduating 100+ black men in a graduating year. "I hope what they were trying to do in bringing attention to Francis Lawrence's statements, doesn't get lost in legal proceedings," said John Brinkley, Ayinde's father. "When you stand up there are consequences but sometimes it's worth it to change things," he believed. The NAACP contributed \$415 to the students for shared legal fees.

Your Type Matters



EAST ORANGE—Whatever blood type you have, your donations make a difference. People with type O blood can give red cells to most of the population, and there is always a great need for it, especially during the winter and summer. Patients with negative RH factors can only receive red cells from volunteers donors with negative RH factors and all four negative types comprise just 15 percent of the population.

Those with A+ and AB+ blood are also very needed during the shortage periods, and are also perfectly suited for platelet apheresis donations. Plasma from AB donors can be

given to virtually any patient. AB donors are encouraged to give plasma through the apheresis procedure if possible.

Finding time to schedule a blood donation is difficult, especially during the summer months. But this is when the need is particularly crucial. Two regional donor centers are open six days each week and allow donors to make an appointment at their convenience.

The centers are Regional Donor Center at West Orange, 401 Pleasant Valley Way, 201-669-9898 and Regional Donor Center at Parsippany, 1915 Route 46 E., 201-335-6162.

Enter the NJ dairy recipe contest

MAPLE SHADE, NJ—New Jersey State invites all residents to enter the 9th annual Jersey Fresh Dairy Recipe Contest which will feature dessert recipes using Jersey Fresh fruits and dairy products.

Judging will be based on taste appeal, creativity, ease of preparation and the effective use of dairy products. Recipes should not specify brand names, and entries must state the number of servings it serves and approximate preparation time.

Entries must be postmarked by midnight August 16. Semi-finalist

winners will be contacted to be present at the final judging which will take place on Monday, August 28, at 10 a.m. at the Somerset County Extension Building in Bridgewater.

Grand prize is \$250 cash award; 2nd prize is \$150 and 3rd prize is \$50. All semi-finalists will receive \$25 cash awards and dairy promotional gifts.

For more information, contact the New Jersey State Dairy Princess Committee at 609-667-8516 or write for an entry form by sending a self addressed stamped envelope to 127 Wilson Road, Maple Shade, NJ 08052.

reasons for attack

are no, and we repeat no statistics to substantiate this. Why couldn't it be that the candidates were equal or both students eligible and because of merit and diversity the minority got it. Are we to believe that with white males making up 37 percent of the population, and having more than 50 percent of the jobs, all of them were better qualified than all minorities and whites? Or are they saying that minorities are naturally less qualified?

Following the 1994 election, some looked at the statistics about white males and are feeding on their anger, frustration and circumstance. Affirmative action, more specifically racial preferences, have become a wedge issue by which they can rally people, win over conservatives and build themselves up. Isn't it interesting that Sen. DeLoe and Gov. Wilson supported affirmative action for years. Regent Connerly's business benefited from affirmative action grants and Con. Frank was admitted to Yale because of affirmative action, however he now foolishly says it wasn't affirmative action; it was "outreach." All of them also looked at another figure from the 1994 election and they saw that minorities don't vote in large numbers. Don't they feel they have anything to lose by

Continued from page 4

voting against affirmative action, emphasizing racial preferences. And watch the proposals that come out of Congress; somehow they will find a way to protect the gains of women, where voters defend their.

If the leadership of this nation possessed genuine concern for all of its citizens, it would not put us against each other but would seek to unite and uplift all of us. They could begin by challenging corporate America to treat its employees like people and not statistics and numbers and a means to an end. Corporate America is racking up record profits while turning a national scandal itself and back to a dishonorable past.

As I see

Continued from page 4

of companies; in our failure to prepare minority students to compete in 21st century technology.

African Americans need to take off the blinders that hide the erosion of the civil and human rights and equal opportunity we fought so hard to get. We need to form coalitions with individuals and organizations fighting the reversal of affirmative action. If affirmative action is wiped out by a federal law, without the states?

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RATE	APR	MAXIMUM LOAN	MONTHLY P&I PER \$1,000	CAPS	
6.750%	7.550%	\$500,000	\$6.49	2% annual & 5% lifetime	

3/1 ARM		30 Year Term		Converts to 1-Year ARM in 3 years after which rate may increase or decrease annually	
RATE	APR	MAXIMUM LOAN	MONTHLY P&I PER \$1,000	CAPS	
6.500%	7.680%	\$500,000	\$6.33	2% annual & 5% lifetime	

1 YEAR ARM		30 Year Term		Converts to 1-Year ARM in 3 years after which rate may increase or decrease annually	
RATE	APR	MAXIMUM LOAN	MONTHLY P&I PER \$1,000	CAPS	
5.750%	7.840%	\$500,000	\$5.84	2% annual & 5% lifetime	

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BILLBOARD

Final Judgement: book review

Live From Death Row: by Mumia Abu-Jamal

by Andre Worthly

THRU SEPTEMBER 14
NEW YORK—Sequel Liberty Evening (Jazz) Music Cruises depart at 8:30 and 9:30 p.m. For more info call 212-332-0888.

AUGUST 1-5
NEW YORK—Blues Fest at Marjory's Car Wash. For more info call 212-369-0789.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2
WESTBURY—CD 101 9 Night on the Town! featuring jazz all-stars Lalah Hathaway, Garret Abaright, Herbie Hancock, etc. at Westbury Music Fair at 8 p.m. For more info call 516-334-0905.

NEWARK—Stepping out in the Central West End concert at Hank Aaron Field at 6 p.m. For more info call 201-824-8203.

NEW YORK—Jazz on the Plaza: Just Jammin' at 6:30 p.m. at Lincoln Center's North Plaza.

EAST ORANGE—Jazz at the Plaza featuring Spirit of Life Ensemble at Elmwood Park at 8 p.m. For more info call 201-266-1417 or 5123.

WAYNE—William Paterson College Summer Concert Band at WPC at 7:30 p.m. For more info call 716-536-2315.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3
NEW YORK—The Coasters at Brooklyn Academy of Music at noon and 1 p.m. For more info call 716-536-4129.

NEWARK—Libby & Co. at The Newark Museum Garden Jazz Concerts at the Newark Museum from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. For more info call 201-596-6550.

AUGUST 4-12
NEW YORK—Caramoor Music Festival on Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 p.m. For more info call 914-232-5035.

AUGUST 4-5
NEW YORK—Shakespeare's Trolius and Cressida at The Public Theater. For more info call 212-598-7100.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5
NEW BRUNSWICK—"Pasta with Chopsticks" and "The Unlikely Hero" at the New Theater at 1 p.m. For more info call 908-932-9772.

MONDAY, AUGUST 7
MOUNTAINSIDE—NJ Symphony at Echo Lake Park at 7:30 p.m. For more info call 908-527-4900 or 908-532-8410.

THRU AUGUST 10
NEW YORK—"Blackploration, Baby!" a 36-39 film retrospective of the black actors/pictures of the early 70's at the Film Forum 5. For more info call 212-727-8110.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10
NEW YORK—The Five Satins at Brooklyn Academy of Music at noon and 1 p.m. For more info call 718-636-4129.

"More often than not" writes Mumia Abu-Jamal, "capital punishment in America carries a black, brown or red face." For the author of *Live From Death Row* this grim observation is based on first-hand experience.

At one time Abu-Jamal was a respected broadcast journalist whose commentary frequently appeared on Philadelphia talk radio and he was president of the Philadelphia chapter

of the Association of Black Journalists. As a result of his award-winning coverage of his community he became known as "the voice of the voiceless."

Today he writes from a prison cell on death row. On August 17 the state of Pennsylvania fully intends to hurt him into extinction.

In his book *Live From Death Row*, Abu-Jamal offers a fascinating collection of essays on discrimination and political bias in the American judicial system. The author also takes

a critical look at the brutalities and atrocities that go on inside a prison system that refers to itself as "corrections."

Abu-Jamal writes, "There is a quickening of the nation's death row of late—a picking up of the pace of the march towards death...states that have not slain in a generation now ready their machinery: generators whine, poison liquids are mixed, gases are measured and readied, silent chambers await the order to smother life."

What is surprising about *Live From Death Row* is the author does not plead his case. He does not write about the crime for which he was convicted. Instead, he writes about what he views as crimes committed by this system, this government, members of the Philadelphia police, and the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections.

The author points out that while blacks are 11 percent of the United States, they are 40 percent of America's death row population. Abu-Jamal does not suggest that all blacks on death row are innocent. His point is that at every stage of the criminal justice system—from arrest, to arraignment, to trial, to sentencing—

black defendants are treated with "a special vengeance not experienced by white defendants." He views such treatment as evidence of discrimination.

In the book we learn that Abu-Jamal is a former member of The Black Panther Party for Self-Defense. He is also an outspoken supporter of the MOVE collective, a black activist environmentalist group whose Philadelphia headquarters was firebombed by police in 1985. During the author's trial, there were derogatory comments about his politics and associations. His supporters say he was framed because of his political activities.

See DEATH ROW/page 8

Selena remembered with *Dreaming of You*

A hard-working performer who bedazzled her devout following with a powerful voice, striking exotic looks and glitzy shows, Selena Quintanilla was the number one female Latino star in the United States and Mexico when she was shot by a disgruntled former employee on March 31 in Corpus Christi, Texas.

In April, Selena became what is believed to be the first recording artist to place five Spanish-language albums simultaneously on the Billboard 200. Her Grammy-nominated 1994 release *Amor Prohibido* went platinum, while her 1993 Grammy-winning disc *Live* and her 1992 album *Entre a Mi Mundo* struck gold.

According to *Time Magazine*, Selena "was the embodiment of young, smart, hip Mexican-American youth-wearing midriff-baring bustiers and boasting a tight-knit family and down-to-earth personality, a Madonna without the controversy."

The *New York Times* praised Selena as a "young artist with unlimited possibilities," adding that she was "fearless" about achieving stardom in the non-Latino market.



At the time of her death, Selena was in the process of crossing over into the English-speaking market. She already had recorded four English-language tracks that were to be included on her EMI Records premiere album, *Dreaming of You*, later this year.

Dreaming of You contains five English-language tracks, two English/Spanish duets—of which, God's Child (Baila Conmigo), is a spirited vocal duet with David Byrne, two new Spanish-language mariachi ballads and four previously released Spanish-language songs featuring three of her biggest Latino smashers: Amor Prohibido, Bidi Bidi Bom Bom and Como La Flor.

A native of Lake Jackson, Texas, Selena began her rise to the top of the Latino market as the 10-year-old lead singer of Selena y Los Dinos.

Selena y Los Dinos slowly built a base of fans attracted to the flamboyant singer who complemented her belting singing style with flashy terechorean moves borrowed from African-American artists. Selena's prospects for stardom in the English-speaking music world have been much debated since her death. *Dreaming of You* gives ample indication that Selena would have taken away from her time.

Chris Rock to perform at Club Bené



Comedian Chris Rock

SOUTH AMBOY—Comedian Chris Rock will bring his off-the-wall sense of humor to the Club Bené Dinner Theater, located on route 35 in Sayreville, Saturday, August 5, for one night only. On this evening Rock will perform one show at 9 p.m. with an optional dinner being served at 7 p.m.

Rock starred on *Saturday Night Live* for three seasons from 1990-93, along with such great comedians as Adam Sandler, Victoria Jackson and Kevin Nealon.

Movie credits include appearances in *Beverly Hills Cop II*, *Boomerang*, *New Jack City* and *I'm Gonna Get You Sucka*.

Rock's television debut was on Eddie Murphy's HBO special *Up*

town *Comedy Express*. Seven years later, Rock wrote and produced his own comedy special for HBO, which aired in June of 1994. For further information or reservations call the Club Bené at 609-727-3000.

Earth, Wind & Fire comes to New Jersey



HOLMDEL—The elements are back on the road after 1994's sold-out U.S. concert tour which earned rave reviews from coast to coast. Earth, Wind & Fire's 50-city trek, dubbed "The Legend Continues: Earth, Wind & Fire 1995 Summer Tour," is coming to the Garden State Arts Center on Sunday, August 13. Known for their electrifying live performances and trend-setting theatrics, the twelve-piece outfit plus two dancers—featuring lead singer Philip Bailey, bassist Verdine White and their trademark horn section—are performing some of Earth, Wind & Fire's classic hits from their extraordinary twenty-plus year career.

Beenie Man rocks the place with *Blessed*

NEW YORK, NY—One of the most remarkable things about the entertainment industry is the years of sweat and pain it takes to become an "overnight success." Moses Davis "Beenie Man" took 15 years to achieve his "overnight success," beginning at the tender age of five.

Back in 1981 Beenie and his best friend, singer, Little Kirk entered a deejay contest in their neighborhood. They took home first prize out of a field of 42 contestants and that day two new talents in Reggae music were discovered. Shortly after, Beenie's first single *Tou Fancy* was produced by prominent producer Janjo Lawes. That was his first step on his way to stardom.

In the following years Beenie Man graced dance halls with his like *Killer Sound*, *We Run Things*, and *Kip Wee*. Later veteran studio producer Bunny Lee took him to King Jammy's studio to do an album, eventually titled *The Inevitable Beenie Man: Ten Year Old Boy Wonder*.

"I got nothing for this album," recalls the now grown up boy wonder. But that never stopped him and

he went on to make a name for himself overseas. On his return to Jamaica in 1987 he did his first major stage shows: *DJ Roll Call*, *Sting 87*, and *King Jammy's 10th Anniversary Celebration*.

In 1991, when President Nelson Mandela and wife Winnie made an official visit to Jamaica, Beenie Man worked with American rapper Doug E. Fresh on a free public concert at the National Stadium to honor President Mandela and the First Lady.

By mid-1993 he was being rated among the top deejays, and has performed in several countries since 1994, including the U.S., Japan, England, and the Caribbean.

"It was definitely my best year in terms of everything, reflecting back on 1994. But this year, you're going to see even bigger and better things," says Beenie.

Among the signs that his predictions are coming true are his album deal with Island Jamaica Records, Chris Blackwell's newly founded record company based in Kingston, and his latest album *Blessed*, which features hit songs such as *Slam*,



Rapper Beenie Man

Blessed, *World Dancer*, *Crazy Bald Head*, a diet with singer Luciano, a powerful cover of the classic Marley protest tune and many more.

Beenie admits that this is the best thing to have happened to his career so far, but he insists that there is a lot more to achieve and he wants to reach those goals right now.



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BUSINESS

BUSINESS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2
HASBROUCK HEIGHTS—In Search of Customers free business seminar at the Sheraton Hasbrouck Heights from 9:30 to 11 a.m. For more info call 1-800-967-4646.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3
SECAUCUS—In Search of Customers free business seminar at the Hilton Meadowlands from 9:30 to 11 a.m. For more info call 1-800-967-4646.

AUGUST 3 - 9
NEW YORK—Black Enterprise magazine presents Acquiring and Managing Your Own Franchise Conference & Expo at the Sheraton New York Hotel. For more info call 1-800-54-FO-RUJL.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4
PARK RIDGE—In Search of Customers free business seminar at The Park Ridge Marriott from 9:30 to 11 a.m. For more info call 1-800-967-4646.

THRU AUGUST 4
HANOVER, NH—1995 Minority Business Executive Program, sponsored by the Amos Tuck School of Business, Dartmouth College. Call 603-646-3740.

AUGUST 6 - 9
PHILADELPHIA—Buyers Market of America: Philadelphia Buyers Market at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. For more info call 410-889-2933.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16
Middlesex Chapter NAWBO Summer Membership Gathering from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. For more info call 908-721-3030.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6
SOMERSET, NJ—Somerset County Chamber of Commerce Business Card Exchange at the Ramada Inn. Call 908-725-1552.

SEPTEMBER 18 - 20
NEW YORK—Second Annual Circulation Management Conference and Expo at the Manhattan Crowne Plaza. For more info call 212-977-0790.

SEPTEMBER 19-24
WASHINGTON, DC—CBC Week, sponsored by the congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. Call 202-675-9730.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
BRIDGEWATER—Breakfast with Gullah Returns, meet one-on-one with purchasing agents from large area corporations. Sponsored by the Somerset County Chamber of Commerce. Call 908-725-1552.

LINCOLN, NJ—Trade Financing for Exporters Only sponsored by Eximbank, US SBA, NISBOD and NJEDA at Brookdale Community College. Call 201-645-3630.

VIENNA, VA—Recent Changes in International Procurement Policies and Regulations, sponsored by the Latin American Management Association. Call 202-546-3803.

NEW YORK—Destination MBA, free seminar for college seniors at NY Marriott Financial Center Hotel from 8:30 a.m. to noon. For more info call 609-987-0628.

Wednesday, October 25
SOMERSET—The '95 Mid-Jersey Business Expo at the Garden State

Survey reveals out look on African-American way-of-life

NEW YORK, NY—A survey published in the Silver Anniversary issue of *Black Enterprise* Magazine indicated largely positive attitudes about business issues with more than 60 percent of respondents saying they are better off economically than they were five years ago.

Nearly 80 percent believe black-owned businesses will increase in volume in the next five years. In addition, 90 percent of African Americans are more confident than ever that an African American will head a Fortune 500 company. Even so, a large majority, 68 percent, still view access to capital and overcoming lending bias as the major hindrance to even further economic gains by blacks.

The *Black Enterprise* Magazine Leadership Survey is the most reliable attitudinal data available on the black middle class. The findings were based on over 1,000 responses to an 80-question survey published in the April issue. The survey covered a wide range of economic, political and social issues.

"Economic opportunity and financial success continue to be the most important means by which African Americans get ahead in our society, an ideal that *Black Enterprise* has sought to amplify since its inception," said publisher and CEO Earl G. Graves.

The survey also revealed that a majority of readers (90 percent) think

that affirmative action has been somewhat or very effective, although only 14 percent attributed their own job to affirmative action programs. Alternatively, African Americans see a positive effect from affirmative action: 63 percent said that it had some negative effects including "qualifications questioned," "assumed less qualified," "negative backlash," and "white resentment." Some 65 percent also believe that white women are taking jobs away from qualified blacks.

Other major findings of the survey included:

- A majority (71 percent) expect to see a black vice president within the next 20 years, but only 34 percent

expect to see a black president within that time.

- Seventy-three percent responded that racism had held back career achievement a great deal or somewhat.

- A majority (75 percent) think employment opportunities have either decreased or remained the same for blacks in the last five years.

- African Americans are confident about their financial security (52 percent) but less so than five years ago (59 percent).

- Seventy-seven percent said that income was the main criteria for determining middle class status, not education.

- A majority rank AIDS (60 per-

cent), violence (51 percent), drug abuse (50 percent) and lack of access to quality health care (46 percent)—in addition to police brutality—as the major barriers to social problems affecting the black community.

- A strong majority (86 percent) believe that traditionally black colleges serve an important function and 60 percent preferred that their child attend.

- A lower percentage (28) said that the death penalty deters crime, down from 34 percent five years ago.

- A large percent have low level of confidence in public school teachers (70 percent) say they "failed to provide quality education."

The need to shatter the glass ceiling

by Rene Redwood

Four years ago, Congress created the Glass Ceiling Commission as part of the Civil Rights Act of 1991, because it and the President wanted to know why thousands of qualified women and men of color failed to reach senior management and decision making positions in corporate America.

The twenty-one member Presidential commission, including the Secretary of labor, were asked to investigate "glass ceiling" phenomenon, to focus greater public attention on these barriers, and to recommend policies, practices, and procedures that could reduce or eliminate them.

The Commission gathered a wealth of statistical and anecdotal information that presents a complex and disturbing, though hopeful, picture of corporate America on the eve of the 21st century. The fact finding report issued by the Commission on March 16, *Good For Business: Making Full Use of the Nation's Human Capital*, synthesizes a great deal of that data. It moves the debate out of the ethical, moral, and social arenas

and presents hard evidence that business, government, and social leaders can use to bring about change.

Significant barriers continue to impede the advancement of qualified women and minorities into senior management and decision-making positions throughout the private sector. This exists despite the growing number of corporate leaders who recognize that diversity at the top is a bottom line issue essential to business success in the global marketplace.

The barriers found stem from many roots:

1. Outmoded business practices that fail to recruit, train, mentor, and promote widely and aggressively in an increasingly diverse work force.
2. Government policies intended to enable equality of access and successful outcome that are not or cannot be implemented or fully enforced.

3. Social barriers that perpetuate gender and racial stereotypes and limit educational opportunities and attainment.

Reducing or eliminating these barriers will not be easy or accom-

plished quickly. People of good will from all walks of life must be committed to championing diversity. High performing companies are making excellent progress in diversifying their

management teams. They see benefits from these efforts through improved productivity and competitiveness in the marketplace.

Before the Commission sunsets in November, it will propose recommendations to the President and Congress. It will practice the art of the possible. The Commission's recommendations can pick up the pace of change and help all Americans achieve their full potential in the workplace.

The Commission intends that those it must make changes be able to accomplish them. The recommen-

dations will help all people achieve success without handicapping the chances of others, they will be good for business and good for society at large, and they will not impose unwarranted cost or regulatory burdens.

We are at a real turning point in American history, poised to determine what kind of society we are going to be in the 21st century. That future requires a new national paradigm, one designed to create a cohesive interdependent civil society in which inclusion of all groups is elicited and where ethnic differences are viewed as strengths and valued for their contribution to the common good.

People of all races and both genders are entering our work force ever increasing numbers. They are

transforming the character of our corporate structures. These changes are as inevitable as they are beneficial.

When glass ceilings are forever shattered, this nation will have succeeded in using its greatest asset—its working people—to their fullest potential. And we as a nation will have come a long way to achieving the full promise of our society by making its bounty equally available to all.

Copies of the report are available from the U.S. Government Printing Office. Please call 202-512-1800 and ask for report number 029-016-00157-3.

Rene A. Redwood is executive director of the Glass Ceiling Commission.

Economic development

Continued from page 1

law firm, at the opposite end of North Avenue had mixed feelings about the acquiring of properties. Heffeld says while "one more lively voice would be helpful," there are many things the Plainfield community and Williams must take into consideration.

"The guy's a ball player, so what! This doesn't mean we want to make things in Plainfield better," he said.

"If Mr. Williams is buying properties with intentions to revitalize the area. Then more power to him," said Heffeld, but warned that Williams must face a greater challenge. "If he wants to be part of revitalization of North Ave., he must deal with the absence of parking. One of the problems I face is there is no place for commuters to park."

Heffeld contributes the parking and other problems North Avenue

faces to the lack of enforcement of parking laws and code enforcement by the city. Heffeld says that the commercial district is slowly turning into a residential area with no parking for local residents.

Richard McNally co-owner of Ampro, copier and fax machine company on North Avenue agrees that parking has become a problem for business owners, but welcomes Williams' and Johnson's investments in hopes that it will improve the area.

"I expect it to be an improvement to the area. Hopefully, they combine their efforts and join other business owners in the neighborhood to improve the entire area. It's nice to see someone come to the area with a little bit of money to improve the neighborhood," McNally said.

"North Avenue was a good place for us to move to because there wasn't a lot of crime and there was ample parking. It had a lot to do with Hen-

ry's (Henry Johnson, publisher of *City News*) efforts to clean up the area and rid it of drugs," continued McNally.

Jan Edgerton Johnson, executive editor of *City News*, which is also located on North Avenue, also welcomes Johnson and Johnson to the area. Johnson has met with the owners and says they seem to want to make quality repairs and look to bring quality business to the city.

When the Johnsons first moved in the area, in 1984, the city was looking to develop the area. New sidewalks and shrubbery were put in, however, the city failed to maintain the area.

According to Johnson, people urinate on the sidewalks in front of the doorways, empty beer cans and bottles, have periodic fights and there are constant police raids.

"This is the gateway to the city. When people pass here on the train this is what they see and I don't know whether everyone is happy with it, but we're certainly not," says Johnson.

Johnson says the Johnsons may or may not be able to encourage new investors to move into the area and for enforcing traffic laws, but says there remains a need for a stronger police presence to have "law and order" in the area. She suggested the city and private investors join to initiate a plan to bring reform to North Avenue.

"It could actually be an attraction for Plainfield with the right kind of planning. If we could do the kinds of things that would decrease the trashing of the block, fighting, and transient population then it (the area) would turn out pretty well."

We've certainly seen how Plainfield develop, that has always been a dream of ours," says Mrs. Johnson.

Death row

Continued from page 7

As a black activist with no prior criminal record, Abu-Jamal is recognized throughout the world as a political prisoner. His supporters include writers John Edgar Wideman and Sonia Sanchez; and actors Edward Asner, Ossie Davis, Mike Farrell of the TV sitcom *M*A*S*H*, and Whoopi Goldberg. The author's supporters have traveled from New York to California and as far away as Australia.

Despite celebrity supporters and international rallies on his behalf, Abu-Jamal seems to have exhausted nearly all appeals open to him. The United States Supreme Court refused to hear his appeal and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court twice rejected his case. His lawyers recently filed a 300-page petition for a new trial. As the day of execution nears, each appeal, each petition and each rally takes on greater urgency.

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Schools fail

Continued from page 1

division of field service, was also approved as director of curriculum and instruction.

Edd said he sees curriculum and the instruction in the schools, making sure the two align properly with what students should be taught and should learn, as the district's largest challenge. "The alignment of curriculum and instruction is one way we will address overall test scores and the overall student achievement picture. We want to be able to have a curriculum and instructional method that will allow each student to be able to learn at their own pace," said Edd.

"Together, we are up for the challenge. We know what to do and with the assistance of the community and state department we will be doing so. We have resources within our own school district and colleges and universities. Nothing happens overnight, but we will be working night and day to ensure we reach the expected goals," he continued.

Weiland, who will assume her post August 28, agreed with Edd saying it's going to take the cooperation of the entire school and district community to make a noticeable change.

"You can't improve schools without mobilizing the entire community," she said.

"Curriculum reform has to happen in a coordinated basis, but it has to involve the community at every school, meaning staff, students, parents, community members and administration. You have to bring together all the stakeholders involved," said Weiland. Weiland said many times districts have well written curriculums but the written curriculums aren't being practiced. She said we need to set higher

See SCHOOLS FAIL page 10

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1995 CORPORATE ACHIEVERS ISSUE

Reactions to Adversity

1. To do; succeed in doing; accomplish

2. To get or reach by exertion; attain; gain

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City in turmoil

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woman Melissa Holloway, who was a running mate of Mayor Schundler. According to the councilwoman, because she has taken independent stances on Mayor Schundler's policies and on the tactics of his administration, her relationship with the mayor is anything but what it used to be. "We are not going to be turned around on this issue and we are willing to do whatever it takes to have all three deputy chiefs reinstated to their command positions," Holloway stated.

Other core organizers included Tyrone Reynolds, one of the "Jersey City Seven" police officers who was involved in a lawsuit against the city several years ago. The Rev. Troy DeCohen, secretary for the International Ministerial Alliance and Detective Kevin Caldwell, president of the Interdepartmental Police Action Council (IMPAC).

The mayor attempted to gain political ground in this battle by filing a request for temporary restraining orders against protesters, specifically naming Councilwoman Holloway and Detective Kevin Caldwell, however that request was denied.

The mayor withdrew his request for a hearing on a permanent restraining order since he is in Europe and would be unable to attend. Thus far, all protests have been peaceful and lawful, while all legal action taken by the mayor has failed to stop this movement.

Recently, the organizers met to encourage more people to join in the daily protests held outside the mayor's home, and Caldwell encouraged residents to include their children in the protest.

"There is an evil spirit going across this country. Every right and every inch of progress our people have marched, scratched, fought and died for is being blatantly and openly disregarded and taken away and we (black people) are giving them a license to disrespect us because of our silence and lack of response," said Caldwell.

Tyrone Reynolds reminded the crowd to encourage the participation of women. He said the group intends to utilize the proven methods of direct action as practiced within the historical context of the civil rights movements to effect change and to demand respect from the mayor and the police director.

"This community is under siege and we have to fight to get these folks out of here," Rev. DeCohen reminded the protesters.

Another rally is planned for Thursday, August 3 at 5 p.m. outside City Hall. There is also a telephone call-in campaign available for those who cannot attend rallies.

Although the mayor is out of town, he has authorized his spokesperson, Thomas Gallagher to make public statements regarding this issue. Gallagher has since been a guest on the Bob Grant Show on WABC radio to address questions about the situation.

Mayor Schundler is up for reelection in 1997 and has gained national political recognition by the Republican party. Black ministers in Jersey City are considering mounting a recall campaign against the mayor. At press time, no response was made in the effort to contact the mayor's spokesperson.

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Price responds

train inner-city residents for private jobs," said Price.

The theme of the conference, "Our Children are Our Destiny," was also detailed in the address. "Communities urgently need more youth development programs, not prisons, for youngsters," said Price, who called for safe and supportive havens for our teenagers after school and during the summer. "We should recognize those who are making genuine academic progress along with those engaged in constructive extracurricular

activities," he continued.

The Urban League will collaborate with community groups including churches, PTAs and others to stage events that celebrate the accomplishments of young people to honor their achievements.

"Developing our children means instilling in them a sense of self-worth based on knowledge of themselves and pride in their people," Price said. "Millions of our children are doing the right thing every day. They deserve our full support so that they stay on course."

Full employment

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When twenty million people who desire fulltime employment aren't able to get it, an environment of political scapegoating and social hostility is created.

Blacks, Latinos, women and others are blamed for declining real incomes, unemployment and the loss of job advancement. Yet, overturning the affirmative action programs and policies will do little to reverse these economic trends for white male workers.

This is why the advocates of affirmative action must carefully link their struggle for social justice with efforts to achieve full employment. I say "carefully" precisely because many "neoliberals" and DNC-style, conservative Democrats want to sacrifice race-based reforms in favor of class-based programs which address economic disadvantage. Affirmative action is not an anti-poverty program, and it was never designed

to create full employment.

But the interests of people who have traditionally experienced discrimination and the concerns of those who are fearful of losing their jobs, are connected. Unless the total number of jobs is significantly increased for every body, millions of white male workers will be inclined to perceive affirmative action as against their narrow, material interests. Left-of-center political initiatives like affirmative action are always more popular when the economic pie is expanding.

Schools fail

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expectations for all students.

Comprehensive curriculum and instruction were among the criteria the district failed to meet. Although the district passed 27 of the 43 state criteria, they must strengthen in the areas of school/community relations, aspects of

Task force

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Levertt, who began as superintendent in April of this year, has reorganized his staff into a series of directorships to address compliance problems. Dr. Ronald Frye was named director of compliance and resource development.

"Many of the areas the district failed to pass were procedural and technical matters that can be addressed in the course of next year," said Levertt. "Other areas such as curriculum changes and student achievement scores will take longer

planning, staff, mandated basic skills, facilities, equal opportunities/affirmative action and financial elements of the monitoring.

Edd served as Oklahoma City's 37th district superintendent for 10 years and as principal for six years. Weiland holds a doctorate in early childhood and elementary education and a master's in urban elementary education.

to address. This is where the school district needs the collaborative efforts and partnerships with all stakeholders in the community," he said.

The information of the task force will begin immediately Levertt said. He plans to have the first meeting of the group in September when the schools reopen.

The task force will meet monthly and will review and monitor the input to district staff concerning corrective actions to eliminate identified deficiencies. The task force will evaluate progress toward achieving certification and will also work with the school district in developing plans to reform the district.

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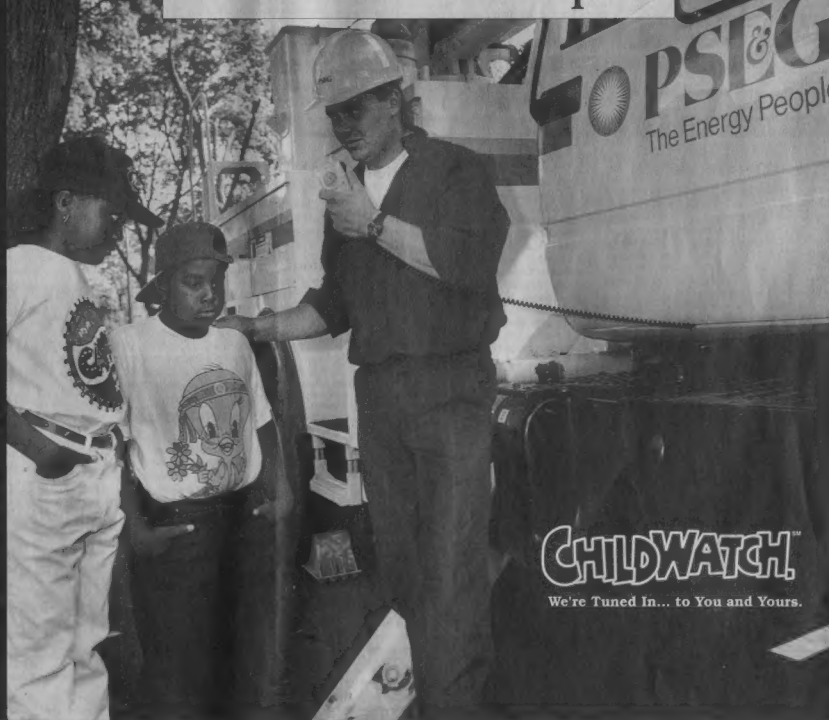
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